

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05713 01 OF 02 061656Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 AF-10
IO-14 /121 W

-----061726Z 085429 /50

R 061634Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0096
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 05713

USEEC, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EEC, US, UK, PFOR
SUBJ: MAY 24 PRESS CONFERENCE BY UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN

REF: EC BRUSSELS 5331

1. SUMMARY: IN A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING HIS MAY 24 BRUSSELS SPEECH BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS ASSOCIATION (REFTEL), UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN COMMENTED ON US/EC RELATIONS, PRESIDENT CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH AT NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY, DEMOCRACY IN THE EC, COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONAL REFORM, AND EURO-COMMUNISM. MISSION HAS JUST RECEIVED FROM UK PERMREP VERBATIM TEXT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, WHICH TO OUR KNOWLEDGE WERE NOT WIDELY REPORTED BY LOCAL PRESS CORPS. MAJOR POINTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED BELOW; FULL TEXTS OF OWEN SPEECH AND PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS BEING POUCHED TO LONDON AND DEPARTMENT (EUR/NE AND EUR/RPE). END SUMMARY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05713 01 OF 02 061656Z

2. US/EC RELATIONS:

ASKED TO ELABORATE ON HIS SPEECH REFERENCES TO AN ANTI-ATLANTICIST VIEW OF US/EC RELATIONS (PARA 4 REFTL), OWEN RESPONDED IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS: "I AM NOT SO CERTAIN THAT THAT IS AS DOMINANT IN FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY MAKING AND FRENCH GOVERNMENT MAKING AS SOME PEOPLE THINK. IT EXISTS

INSIDE EUROPE, NOT JUST IN FRANCE. I HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN CRITICIZED FOR ATTACHING A CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT TO EUROPE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH AMERICA, AND I AM AN UNREPENTANT BELIEVER IN THIS. I HAVE ALWAYS ARGUED THE CASE FOR BRITISH MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMON MARKET AS BEING PERFECTLY COMPATIBLE WITH CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE US. BUT I HAVE NEVER THOUGHT THAT THAT WAS PECULIAR TO BRITAIN, AND I THOUGHT ONE OF THE MOST HEARTWARMING ASPECTS OF THE SUMMIT WAS THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE RELATIONS WHICH SEEMED TO TAKE PLACE AT THE SUMMIT... IT IS CERTAINLY NOT A BRITISH INTEREST TO SEE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC NOT HAVING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US, OR FRANCE NOT HAVING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US. SO I SEE THE ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP AS BEING ONE NOT EXCLUSIVELY JUST BRITAIN AND AMERICA. I SEE IT AS A EUROPE AND AMERICA, AND I THINK THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT... I PERSONALLY DON'T DENY THAT IT IS MUCH EASIER TO SUPPORT A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH AN AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION ESPOUSING CAUSES WHICH ONE FINDS ONESELF EASY TO IDENTIFY WITH; BUT I THINK THAT, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATION, THE CONTINUITY OF FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD BE TO ATTACH CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT TO HAVING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US; AND NOTHING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO IN ANY FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS THAT I TAKE WOULD TRY TO IMPERIL THAT. I THINK IT IS A VERY ESSENTIAL CORNERSTONE OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT THAT THERE IS AN ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP. OF COURSE SECURITY AND DEFENCE RELATIONSHIPS ARE ONE OF THE VITAL REASONS WHY THAT IS; BUT THAT'S ONLY ONE. ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL THINGS IS THAT YOU CAN HAVE ALL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05713 01 OF 02 061656Z

THE DEFENCE ALLIANCES IN THE WORLD; BUT UNLESS THERE IS AN IDENTITY OF FEELING AND INTEREST BETWEEN THE TWO, THE ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP IN DEFENCE WILL NOT BE A THING THAT WILL WITHSTAND THE CRUCIAL TESTS THAT MAY BE PUT ON IT. IT WILL ONLY WITHSTAND THE CRUCIAL TESTS THAT MAY BE PUT ON IT IF IT IS BASED ON GENUINE UNDERSTANDING, FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOW FEELING AND IT IS A GREAT MISTAKE TO THINK THAT YOU CAN JUST HAVE DEFENCE ALLIANCES...THEY ARE NOTHING IF THERE ISN'T A POLITICAL UNITY UNDERLYING IT."

3. PRESIDENT CARTER'S MAY 22 FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH:

OWEN OFFERED THE FOLLOWING COMMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY SPEECH:

"I THINK IT HAS ALREADY INFLUENCED THE POLICIES OF THE EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY, AND I WELCOME THE BROAD APPROACH WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BROUGHT...HIS EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE HIGHER PRIORITY THAT IT IS NOW BEING

ACCORDED IN THE WHOLE DISCUSSION - THE BALANCED DISCUSSION
THAT NEEDS TO TAKE PLACE ON DETENTE - IS I THINK WELCOME.
HIS COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND MAJORITY RULE AND HIS
ANTIPATHY AND CRITICISM OF RACIALISM WHEREVER IT EXISTS
IS I THINK EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND HAVING A PROFOUND INFLU-
ENCE IN AFRICA. I THINK THAT YOU CAN SUPPORT PRESIDENT
CARTER'S BROAD FOREIGN POLICY OUTLINE, WHICH I OPENLY DO,
AND STILL RETAIN THE RIGHT TO CRITICISE SOME ASPECTS OF
IT... I THINK THAT A GOOD PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EUROPE AND
THE US WILL ALLOW US TO MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM AND
TO HAVE A DIALOGUE AND TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER. AND I

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05713 02 OF 02 061701Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 AF-10
IO-14 /121 W

-----061724Z 085482 /50

R 061634Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0097
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 05713

USEEC, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

THINK THIS IS ONE OF THE INTERESTING THINGS THAT CAME OUT
OF THE LONDON SUMMIT - A READINESS TO LISTEN TO EACH OTHER
AND A MUCH CLOSER POSITION ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES AT THE
END OF THAT CONFERENCE THAN AT THE START. BUT THE BROAD
SWEEP OF IMAGINATIVE BUT REALISTIC IDEALISM WHICH PRESIDENT
CARTER HAS BROUGHT TO FOREIGN POLICY IS ONE WHICH I
STRONGLY SUPPORT."

4. DEMOCRACY IN THE COMMUNITY:

REFLECTING REMARKS MADE IN HIS SPEECH (PARA 5 REFTEL),
OWEN EMPHASIZED THE INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN THE EXISTENCE
OF NON-DEMOCRATIC STATES IN THE EC AND THE PHILOSOPHY

UNDERLYING THE COMMUNITY. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT THE ROME TREATIES PROVIDE NO METHODS OF EXCLUSION. HE CONCLUDED: "I DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE STABILITY OF THE EXISTING MEMBERS; AND AS FAR AS NEW MEMBERS, ONE OF THE CENTRAL REASONS FOR ARGUING THAT THEY SHOULD BE MEMBERS IS THAT IT WILL BUTTRESS THEIR DEMOCRACY, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05713 02 OF 02 061701Z

WHICH IN SOME CASES HAS ONLY BEEN NEW-FOUND AND NEW-WON... YOU WON'T BUTTRESS DEMOCRACY IF PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN BE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AS AN UNDEMOCRATIC COUNTRY."

5. EC INSTITUTIONAL REFORM:

OWEN EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT EC INSTITUTIONAL REFORM SHOULD BE DEALT WITH PRIOR TO, IN PARALLEL WITH, AND SUBSEQUENT TO ANY FURTHER ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY; THE ENLARGEMENT QUESTION ONLY ADDS URGENCY TO THE ALREADY EXISTING NEED TO EXAMINE THE EC'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT JUDGMENTS ON ENLARGEMENT SHOULD NOT BE BASED UPON THE PACE OF INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES. HE CAUTIONED, AS WELL, AGAINST THE DANGERS OF "GLOBALIZING" ENLARGEMENT DISCUSSIONS. UNCLASSIFIED

6. EURO-COMMUNISM:

OWEN OFFERED THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS ON EURO-COMMUNISM:

"I AM NOT YET SATISFIED THAT THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A SEPARATE ENTITY OF EURO-COMMUNISM. AT THE MOMENT, I WOULD PREFER TO JUDGE IT IN EACH INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY. AND IT SEEMS TO ME TO BE DIFFERENT IN ALL THE DIFFERING COUNTRIES IN WHICH THERE IS A STRONG COMMUNIST PARTY IN EUROPE... THERE ARE COMMON GROUNDS BUT I THINK YOU OVER-EMPHASIZE THE DEGREE OF IDENTITY BY USING THIS OMNIBUS TERM EURO-COMMUNISM. THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF EURO-COMMUNISM WHICH HAS TO BE RESOLVED, PARTICULARLY IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, IS DO PEOPLE WHO ESPOUSE EURO-COMMUNISM ACCEPT DEMOCRACY? THAT IS THE FUNDAMENTAL. NOW HERE YOU GET INTO A PROBLEM WITH WORDS. BECAUSE TO ME ONE OF THE CRITERIA OF COMMUNIST THEORY AND IDEOLOGY IS THAT IT DOES NOT ACCEPT THE RULE OF THE BALLOT BOX. IF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05713 02 OF 02 061701Z

EURO-COMMUNISM IS ONE THAT IS GOING TO ACCEPT THE RULE OF THE BALLOT BOX, THEN I THINK IT WOULD BE EASIER IF WE FOUND ANOTHER WORD FOR IT OTHER THAN COMMUNISM. IT WOULD THEN BE A LEFT SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY WHICH OF COURSE I HAVE NO RESENTMENT TO AT ALL... WHERE I AM ABSOLUTELY ADAMANT AND WHERE I HAVE ALWAYS OPPOSED COMMUNISM IS IN ITS REJECTION OF DEMOCRACY. THE KEY PROBLEM IS WHEN WILL YOU KNOW...IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE...A FORM OF EURO-SOCIALISM COMMITTED TO DEMOCRACY, WORKING WITHIN AND ACCEPTING THE RULE OF THE BALLOT BOX, IT WILL IN MY VIEW MAKE AN IMPORTANT AND VERY WORTHWHILE CONTRIBUTION TO DEMOCRATIC POLITICS IN EUROPE; AND IT IS NOT SOMETHING I WISH TO OPPOSE IN ANY WAY. I THINK THE DILEMMA IS STILL THERE... THOSE OF US WHO ESPOUSE DEMOCRACY AND BELIEVE IT IS FUNDAMENTAL, AND I DO, THEN I THINK AT THE MOMENT ONE MUST BE VIGILANT AND WATCHFUL AND CAUTIOUS AND ANALYTICAL AND AVOID TOO MUCH GENERALISATION UNDER THIS BLUNDERBUSS TERMINOLOGY OF EURO-COMMUNISM... THE WORST THING TO DO WOULD BE TO JUDGE IT IN SIMPLISTIC TERMS OF EITHER OUTRIGHT CONDEMNATION OR OUTRIGHT ACCEPTANCE." HINTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE05713
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770201-0194
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770689/aaaacznd.tel
Line Count: 244
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 698bb784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 EC BRUSSELS 5331
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2268767
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY 24 PRESS CONFERENCE BY UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN
TAGS: PFOR, US, UK, EEC, (OWENS, DAVID)
To: STATE USEEC MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/698bb784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009